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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 MCT-01 SS-15 NSC-05
SY-05 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /052 W
----------132029Z 056117 /47
R 131423Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9964

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS SHUM AR
SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF RUDOLFO WALSH

REF: (A) STATE 75066, (B) STATE 77325, (C) BUENOS AIRES 2580

1. A COPY OF THE "OPEN LETTER" FROM RODOLFO WALSH TO THE ARGENTINE JUNTA ARRIVED IN EMBASSY APRIL 11. IT WAS DISPATCHED THROUGH THE REGULAR POSTAL SYSTEM, POSTMARKED APRIL 5, ADDRESSED TO PATRICIA DERIAN AND INCLUDED A COVER LETTER TO MS DERIAN WRITTEN BY THE WALSH FAMILY FOLLOWING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF WALSH ON MARCH 25. EMBASSY DID NOT RECEIVE COPY OF OPEN LETTER EARLIER AS REPORTED REFTEL A, NOR HAD ONE BEEN RECEIVED BY UPI AS OF APRIL 11 (REFTEL B). WALSH'S DISAPPEARANCE HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS BUT NO NEW INFORMATION ON HIS WHEREABOUTS HAS SUBSEQUENTLY COME TO LIGHT.

2. THE WALSH FAMILY LETTER IS STRIDENT AND ACCUSATIVE. ACCORDING TO IT, WALSH DISTRIBUTED HIS "OPEN LETTER" TO THE JUNTA ON MARCH 24 "WITHOUT HOPE OF BEING HEARD BUT SURE OF BEING PERSECUTED" AND WAS KIDNAPPED MARCH 25. IT SAYS HIS HOME IN SAN VICENTE WAS BOMBED AND HIS DIARIES AND CHAPTERS OF HIS MEMOIRES WERE MISSING. THE LETTER DESCRIBES WALSH'S WORLD PRESTIGE AS A POLITICAL AND LITERARY WRITER AND RELATES HIS DIFFICULTY IN FINDING A PUBLISHER FOR HIS INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING ON CLANDESTINE SHOOTINGS IN 1956
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AND LABOR EXPLOITATION IN 1968. (YEARS AGO WALSH PUBLISHED "OPERATION MASSACRE," A BOOK ON THE CRUSHING OF THE 1956 PERONIST UPRISING.)

3. WALSH'S FIVE-PAGE SINGLE-SPACED LETTER TO THE JUNTA SPEAKS OF 15,000 DISAPPEARANCE CASES; 10,000 DETAINEES; 4,000 DEAD; CRIMES COMMITTED BY ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES; AND ECONOMIC

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IMPOVERISHMENT OF THE ARGENTINE WORKERS. HE IMPLICATES THE CIA WHICH HE SAYS WILL BE REVEALED AS PARTICIPATING IN INTERNAL SECURITY CRIMES BY PROVIDING TRAINING GRANTS FUNNELED THROUGH AID TO CHIEFS OF THE ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE AND HELPING CREATE ALONG WITH THE ARMY AND GENERAL MENENDEZ THE RIGHT-WING TERRORIST GROUP WHICH REPLACED THE TRIPLE A. THE EMBASSY IS POUCHING A COPY OF THE LETTERS TO DEPARTMENT AND WILL FURTHER EVALUATE WALSH'S ACCUSATIONS. LOCAL PRESS HAS COMMENTED EDITORIALLY THAT HIS ABDUCTION MAY HAVE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS (REFTEL C).

4. WALSH IS KNOWN AS FERVENT LEFT-WING PERONIST IDEOLOGUE. HE HAS WRITTEN SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS ON POLITICAL AND LABOR SUBJECTS IN THE PAST BUT HAD APPARENTLY BEEN INACTIVE AS A WRITER FOR SOME TIME UNTIL HIS LETTER TO THE JUNTA. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT JUAN DE ONIS IS NOT IN ARGENTINA AT PRESENT, BUT APPARENTLY SPOKE TO MS. DERIAN ABOUT THIS CASE BEFORE SHE LEFT FOR WASHINGTON. HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUENOS02663
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770128-0831
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770463/aaaaccko.tel
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 75066, 77 STATE 77325, 77 BUENOS AIRES 2580
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2825272
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISAPPEARANCE OF RUDOLFO WALSH
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, AR, (WALSH, RODOLFO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/006535a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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